



The Aquastar Owners Club

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Hello Sailor!

Before you all get excited and wonder if this is your replacement commodore's first attempt at a newsletter - do not panic, it is not, it is only a request for your help (a) to get the Aquastar Owners Club membership list, together with its details, up to date and (b) to obtain your thoughts for future club get-togethers.

(a)

This need has arisen because I was hoping in my first newsletter to be able to provide an analysis of where our members live, where you keep your boat, what model you own, together with number, make and model of engines actually in residence under the saloon floor.

Interestingly whether due to natural attrition or change of email address, my request to 16 of the members for information to fill in the blanks, has only resulted in 6 replies!

As there is no annual charge for membership, one of course loses the opportunity to retain contact through the renewals process. So having failed miserably in my first attempt to fill in the blanks I thought the best thing would be initially to send out one email to all the members on the database and see what happens.....

As there are currently 92 on the list, I would ask those who I have already been in contact with to excuse me including them in the mail shot; they can of course gleefully ignore this first request!

What I am requesting is as follows:

- 1) Confirmation that you have actually received this email, and that you still wish to be a member, and have an Aquastar.
- 2) For those who hopefully do wish to continue with your membership, please check that the details on both of the schedules on the attached Excel spreadsheet are correct and up to date; (click on 'membership list' tab on the bottom for the first schedule, then on the 'boat details' tab for the second one).

If no reply is received within a month I will naturally have to assume that either our contact email address is out of date or sadly membership of the club is no longer required by yourself.

I accordingly look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

(b)

As one who has attended each rally, I have noticed, as you will have also, that there has been a decreasing interest in the annual rally run by the Aquastar Club.

2012, 11 took part in this highly successful, Channel Islands rally.

2013, 5 participated after 8 had initially signed up to this West Country rally.

2014, 3 sailed to the Channel Islands to join one other boat, after 10 had initially expressed

an interest.

2015, cancelled in June due to lack of interest. In fact two boats ended up 'cruising in company' roughly following the originally proposed itinerary (Gallant Lady & Star - who in fact also spent a couple of weeks cruising in company earlier in June). Read about both in the next newsletter!

Whether time is now more precious, fuel more expensive, or what, there is definitely a message there somewhere.

The following three ideas come to me, and for the last one to be successful, due to the difficulty of block booking multiple berths in the Victoria Marina, I think a non-refundable deposit will need to be paid up front, which could then be reimbursed against one's share of the cost of the annual club dinner.

I would be grateful for your feedback on these ideas together with any other ones you may wish to add yourself.

Options could include any or all of the following:

1) 'cruising in company' when if a boat/couple of boats plan a trip, they could if they wish mention it to other members in case anyone else wishes to join in.

2) another could be a short rally of a few days based at a location in the U.K. which varies each year such as Plymouth, Kingswear, Cowes, Island Harbour Marina, Chichester Marina, St. Catherines etc.

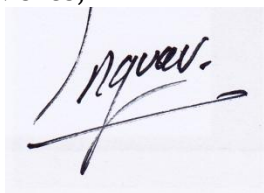
One would not necessarily have to go by boat but it would be an opportunity to meet other Aquastar owners, if not their boats as well. One could add a day's sailing for e.g. lunch somewhere, and/or if the weather is inclement a schedule of on-shore local excursions to places of interest.

3) we decide to meet up every year at St Peter Port, which after all is the home of Aquastars. We could always make this the same weekend for ease of planning. We could have one central day for the annual visit to the Aquastar factory followed by an annual Club Dinner. Around that central day, whether in the week before or the week afterwards one could plan trips to places such as Carteret, St Malo, Jersey or Alderney, or just have day trips to the islands. If the weather is not conducive to boating there are of course many attractions on Guernsey itself. Bus travel is exceedingly cheap (£1 round the island) and even hiring of a car (or a minibus as we did on the 2012 rally) is cost effective.

Your thoughts please, together with any other ideas would be appreciated.

By the way, for those of you who periodically visit the Aquastar Ltd website you will have noticed that there is now an extra 'button' on the home page for '**Owners Club**'. Currently this will invite the visitor to send me an email, but later next year I intend to have a fully working website in action.

Finally, of course what is really helpful is if you ever do sell your pride and joy, after notifying me, do please enlighten the proud new owners about the existence of our club. With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Ingvar".

Ingvar Svenson